



# THE ALAMO



## Tackling the Gharib Ghar

By Maj.  
Jeffery Kilgore

Its 4:30am Friday morning, and its the 53<sup>rd</sup> IN BDE Soldiers only day off in the Ghan due to the op-tempo. Who's ready for some Physical Training?

While most soldiers slept in, several soldiers from the Training Assistance Group were up bright and early in full battle rattle, prepared to meet the French tour guides for a convoy about five minutes out the back gate of the Kabul Military Training Center to the base of The Garhib Gar, "The GHAR." The mission: to tackle The Ghar.

The Ghar is a majestic mountain range which sits between KMTC and another ANA training center known as Pol-e-charki. This dominant terrain feature acts as



TAG Soldiers hold up the U.S. flag at the summit of the Ghar.

the impact area for several firing ranges for the Afghan Army. At its highest point, this rugged mound is elevated approximately 7424 feet, which overlooks not only the army's primary training areas, but also the Afghan capital city of Kabul.

Our convoy met the French tour guides at 0500 hours and we headed north from KMTC along Range Road toward Range 1A. Upon arrival at the base of the Ghar our group met up with several other Soldiers

from Camp Phoenix, bring our total number to 25 Soldiers. There was little time for stretching and conversation about backing out as we stared up at the steep, daunting landscape ahead. We were all anxious to start the climb and beat the heat so the only advice we got from the guides was to watch for falling rocks.

The starting elevation according to one soldier's pluggger was approximately 6100 feet. The first quarter of the trek was a gradual climb with several noticeable foot paths. The paths soon gave way to various sizes of loose rocks and sporadic boulders. Eventually, near the peak, there was what some would consider intermediate rock climbing. Finally we had

*continued on pg 2*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Welcome to the first edition of our Alamo – TAG newsletter. We hope this will be a source of information on what is and will be happening in our area of operations. If you have any recommendations please forward them to our PAO, 2nd Lt. Ruiz.

Our TAG element consists of 250 United States and coalition military members and over 180 civilians in direct support. We cannot accomplish our mission of training the Afghanistan National Army unless we all work together and support one another. Also, if you have any recommendations for morale, welfare, and recreation activities forward them to Maj. Andersen.

With your support, our time in Afghanistan will be beneficial. If you have any issues that need my attention plan to see me or Command Sgt. Maj. Hauschel.

Rose – Shoma – Hush!

Ronald Schrock  
COL, TAG-ANA IV  
Commanding



## CSM Forum

TAG IV marks its one month anniversary of arriving in Afghanistan. We continue to improve our living and working conditions daily.

Progress is not as fast as many of us would like, but nothing happens very fast in Afghanistan. We have completed the Relief In Place and are busy working with our Afghan National Army counterparts.

The ANA soldiers seem eager to learn and are very receptive to what we teach.

Our unit is made up of Soldiers from many different countries. Working with the

Soldiers from these countries is enjoyable and interesting.

Learning the different cultures, customs, and ways of doing things has been fun. I'm sure this is an experience that will stay with us our entire lives.

Our goals while we are here are simple. Provide the best training possible for the ANA and bring us all home safe and sound.

David Hauschel  
CSM, TAG-ANA IV



## Ghar continued

to navigate a technical rock bridge across to the summit. Generally the hike takes between 35 and 60 minutes, depending on rest breaks taken and posing for pictures with fellow comrades near the rock fighting positions.

Once at the top, we all gathered on a small piece of real estate, about 1300 feet above where we started. We took several more pictures, admired ourselves for accomplishing this feat, and gazed out at the dusty scenery that is Afghanistan.

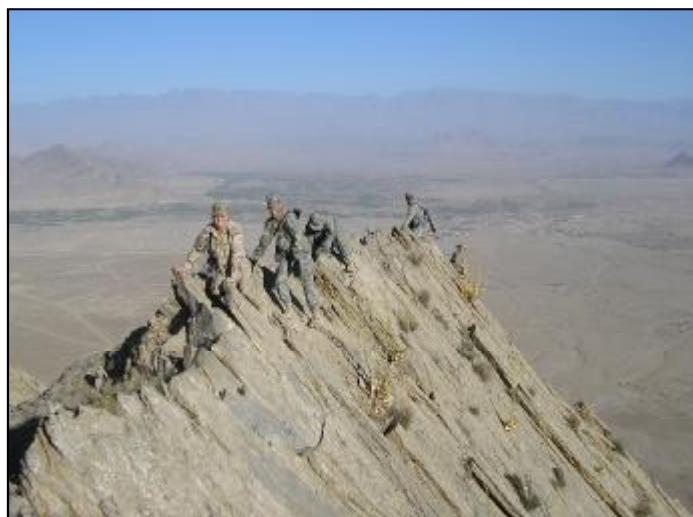
The scenery is worth the trip to the top. Although The Ghar is dwarfed by the Hindu

Kush mountain range we were still higher than incoming airplanes landing at the Kabul International Airport.

As we looked back at the vehicles from which we came we felt like we were on top of the world. From the summit we had a bird's eye view of the asphalt road leading to Bagram, and the bumpy trail of Jalalabad road leading past Camp Phoenix and into Kabul.

One Camp Phoenix soldier stated "I haven't ever felt so alive."

We soon made the 20-30 minute trek back to the vehicles, which was more of a controlled jog as gravity contributed to most of the work. Al-



TAG Soldiers climbing across the land bridge to summit

though this didn't feel like PT with the scenery and camaraderie I can assure you my calves, knees, thighs and lungs were thinking something different.

We would like to host many more early

morning climbs up The Ghar and welcome all who are interested. As Sgt. 1st Class Roque, a TAG soldier said, "It was great, a real challenge, something everyone should experience." But don't take his word for it, come try it for yourself.

# MWR

## Up Coming Events:

### Ghar Climb -

Every Friday 0445 unless closed POC Maj. Kilgore

### Religious Services -

Every Friday between 1100 and 1130 right of the flag pole

Every Sunday 1900 command conference room

Catholic every Monday 1030 Camp Phoenix

### Movie Night -

Every Friday night

19 Aug "Anger Management"

26 Aug "Blade"

(Movies are subject to change)

### Bench Press competition -

26 Aug 1400 MWR weight room KMTC POC Maj. Andersen

### NCAA 2006 PS2 Tournament -

POC Staff Sgt. Sterns Their will be a meeting on Aug 19 at 2000 in the STB Bat cave the Aug 24th they will start playing.

## Soldiers Pay the ANA

Kabul Military Training Center-

Pay is something every soldier looks forward to. Soldiers from the Training Assistance Group and the Embedded Troop Trainers, accompanied by interpreters, recently paid the newly formed Kandak 43, a battalion size unit of Afghan soldiers.

The process works like this: TAG soldiers 2nd Lt. Jason Craft and Sgt. 1st Class Roye Locklear are in charge of picking up the funds and seeing that the soldiers get paid. Kandak 43s ETTs will become responsible for paying the Kandak soldiers when they graduate Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training.

Once the money is drawn, the TAG soldiers bring the money to KMTC where the newly formed Kandak gets paid 3500 Afghani, which is equivalent to about \$73.00 US Dollars, for enlisting in the Afghan National Army.

Volunteers come from all over Afghanistan to join the ANA. Each new Afghan soldier is assigned a number while they are in the high school, which is similar to our MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Sta-

tion).

The new soldiers are housed in the high school until there are enough soldiers to complete a Kandak, which is about six hundred soldiers. They in-process and receive their 3500 Afghani.

The new soldier will give the interpreter his high school number, which is written on the pay form. He then makes a fingerprint of his left thumb on the pay document and signs the document. He then moves to a U.S. Soldier who



Embed Troop Trainer Capt. Jerrime Oliver of Mattapoisett, MA paying an ANA soldier while Finance Officer 2nd Lt. Jason Craft of Jacksonville, FL holds Afghani money ready for pay agents

brings it to KMTC to pay the ANA soldiers. He then moves to a U.S. Soldier who hands him the 3500 Afghani.



Finance Specialist Sgt. 1st Class Roye Locklear Jacksonville, FL handing pay to an ANA recruit while his interpreter Imam Shah talks with the next soldier.

2nd Lt. Jason Craft from Jacksonville, FL is the TAG soldier who is responsible for seeing that the incoming soldiers receive their 3500 Afghani. He coordinates with the ANA S-1 (personnel office) on when the pay date is to take place and then picks up the money and

brings it to KMTC to pay the ANA soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Roye Locklear from Jacksonville, FL just arrived in country, and this is his first time paying new trainees.

"It seems to be a seamless process; we are falling in on something that has been done for the past couple of years," said Sgt. 1st Class Locklear.

Capt. Jerrime Oliver from Mattapoisett, MA is the field artillery mentor for Kandak 43. He is helping issue pay, since he may be assigned to pay the Kandak once they graduate AIT and move to their respective area of operation in Afghanistan.

"You can tell that the ANA Soldiers are very enthused to be here," Capt. Oliver said.



Headquarters Group



S-1 the personnel office from left to right Sgt. Donn Eddy Omaha, NE, Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Clemons of Gainesville, FL, Sgt. John Rosenau of Middleburg, FL, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Conrad from Panama City, Florida



## Greetings From United Kingdom

The U.K. Afghan National Army Training Team is currently being run by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles. The team consist of 22 instructors which include 2 New Zealand SNCO's who are an extremely welcome addition to the team.

Unfortunately we have lost Sgt. Maj. Quackenbush

and Sgt 1st Class Siverly on the last Relief In Place of PHX III, the bad news is they will not be replaced! This is a huge loss to the team as it reduces our instructors (sorry mentors). It is, of course an excellent opportunity for us to learn the Platoon and Company level US Infantry tactics and two high quality U.S.



Sgt Gunraj Rai making sure the ANA soldiers hit the target during a Platoon attack



CSgt Bhimbahadur Rai explaining fire and maneuver to the ANA instructors with the stone model during a course in KMTC training area.

infantry soldiers serve with the Gurkhas and learn a bit about how we do our business.

We also say good bye to Major Ken "The Rock" Thomson who leaves us to attend Staff College back in the UK (good luck to him). After Staff College he will go to a training job in the Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force. Yes, there are Gurkhas there to; in fact if you try a "Namaste" (hello) and a "dhanyabad" to the guards outside the U.S. Embassy you will find that some of them are Gurkhas.

Our main job at Kabul Military Training Center is to mentor the ANA instruc-

tors who run the Senior and Junior Courses. On top of that to improve the quality of the instructors UK ANATT also runs the Train the Trainers Course.

Our main aim of running this course is to teach and refresh the ANA instructors about field craft skills, first aid, map reading, and battle lessons. So they can update and improve their military knowledge in order to produce good soldiers in the Afghan army.

So far a total of the total 6189 NCOs have been trained at KMTC. As the ANA is short of NCOs the emphasis on these courses must increase. It is recognized that the NCO corps is the backbone of most armies, so the ANA is only selling itself short by not providing people to be trained.

## Gurkas Awarded US Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



2IC UK ANATT Capt. (QGO) Yubaraj Tamang receiving a medal from Colonel Robert Jones (US) Commander TAG III.



The members of the UK ANATT were presented "The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal" on Thursday 21 July, 2005. The medal ceremony took place at camp Phoenix in the evening inside the UK ANATT recreation room.

The medals were presented to the members of the UK ANATT by Colonel Robert L Jones (USA) Commander of TAG III. He said that we purely deserve the Medals for our commitment and service given to the U.S. Army.



UK ANATT after the Medal ceremony at Camp Phoenix

## Drill Sergeant of the Cycle

By Lt. Col. John Kaminar

KMTC- New armies don't have many traditions, but the three-year old Afghan National Army has adopted an American tradition. On 21 July, 2005, the ANA recognized its first ever Drill Sergeant of the Cycle. The U.S. Army has long recognized its best drill sergeants for each cycle of basic training.

Now, drill sergeants from the 95<sup>th</sup> Division have passed this tradition on to the ANA. Detachment 8 of the 95<sup>th</sup> Division, a team of 27 drill sergeants and instructors, is currently serving with Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix to execute a broad-based coaching and mentoring program to help train the ANA.

Detachment 8, also known as the Drill Sergeant Mobile Training



Drill Sergeant Mentor Staff Sgt. Nathan Schumann from Omaha, NE left, and 1st Sgt. Ali Khan, right receiving the drill sergeant of the cycle award

Team, arrived in Afghanistan in mid-May 2005, and has just completed its first cycle of ANA basic combat training.

Drill sergeants and instructors from the 95<sup>th</sup> worked both with the ANA privates to instill better discipline in the BCT soldiers and with the ANA cadre to help

hone their skills at transforming civilians into soldiers.

Selection of the United States and ANA drill sergeants of the cycle were made jointly by Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Coles, NCOIC of the Drill Sergeant MTT, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mohammed Arif, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 5<sup>th</sup> Soldier Training Kandak.

The two sergeant majors based their selection on the cadre members' instructional ability, discipline within their companies, and overall performance of duty. The U.S. Drill Sergeant of the Cycle Award went to Staff Sgt. Nathan Schumann, 95<sup>th</sup> Division, Detachment 8.

The first-ever ANA Drill Sergeant of the Cycle Award was presented to 1st Sgt. Ali Khan, 4<sup>th</sup> Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Soldier Training Kandak. The 95<sup>th</sup> Division, home-based in Oklahoma City, has provided drill sergeants and instructors for IET, Field Artillery OSUT, ROTC National Advanced Leadership Camp, and numerous other institutional training ventures in CONUS. Detachment 8's mission to establish a drill sergeant program for the ANA marks the first time that U.S. drill sergeants have trained foreign soldiers.

## U.S. SOLDIERS AID INJURED AFGHANS

By Lt. Col. John Kaminar

Nine U.S. Soldiers and an Afghan interpreter have been recognized for their response to a collision between two Afghan National Army troop trucks at the Kabul Military Training Center on 11 July, 2005.

Two of the U.S. Soldiers are assigned to the Drill Sergeant Mobile Training Team (95<sup>th</sup> Division, Detachment 8) of CJTF Phoenix's Training Assistance Group. The other Soldiers are assigned to the Kandak 42 Embedded Training Team. They were on the range that day to observe training when the collision occurred on range road.

"I heard a crash, and looked to see what happened. I saw the two trucks and just started running for them. I yelled, 'Walford, bring the combat lifesaver bag' and just

headed for the trucks," said drill sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Paul Shofner, one of the first U.S. Soldiers on the scene.

He was quickly joined by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Walford, Staff Sgt. Randall Jacobson, Staff Sgt. David Frahm, and several other U.S. Soldiers. Working through their interpreter, Essaq Zaman, the men quickly evaluated the several injured ANA soldiers while other U.S. Soldiers worked to control the curious crowd of Afghan soldiers and to calm the situation.

The Americans treated at least twelve injured ANA soldiers, including two with life-threatening injuries. An ANA doctor later confirmed that the Americans had saved the two ANA soldiers' lives.

In recognition of their heroic efforts that day, the U.S. Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal at a ceremony on 23 July, 2005 at FOB Alamo, KMTC.

Mr. Zaman received a citation and coin from the Commanding General, CJTF Phoenix. "I really wasn't expecting an award," said Walford, an instructor with the Drill Sergeant MTT. "I just did what anybody would have done."



Soldiers of the 95th and ANA helping out ANA soldiers injured in the accident (Above) Soldiers of the 95th Drill Sergeants (Below)



## Soldier Training Brigade Gets Settled In

By MAJ Brett Andersen

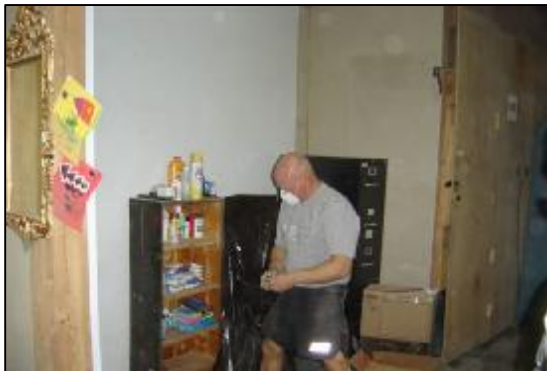
The members of the Soldier Training Brigade are getting settled in, in more ways than one.

Finally, after several days, stops in many countries, and an adventure filled trip on a C-130 Hercules transport plane, the STB had all of its' members at the Alamo, which is inside the Kabul Military Training Center. After about four days worth of jet lag, most people were beginning to adjust to our new home for the next year.

The Alamo (some now call it the Mo) is approximately 250 x 250 yd complex that is surrounded by walls and wire, guarded 24/7 by U.S. Security Forces, and where the STB now work and live the majority of the time. It has everything a soldier could want...a new chow hall, showers built for six, bathrooms that are made for people 5'2" tall, and a beginning of a weight room. It is not

much, but most of us have decided that it is ours and we will make the best of it.

We just need to help it along a little. For many of the STB, the first "Day Off" was spent cleaning out and rehabbing one of the two office spaces that are STBs. Our predecessors did not live at the Alamo, only worked here...to say it needed some spring cleaning is an under-



statement.

The transition to our new jobs varied from person to person and job assignment to job assignment. The process is called Relief In Place. Most of the guys had about 5-7 days with their counterpart before they left for the United States, some had about 6-8 hours. Everyone did their best to learn as

much as possible about what their counterpart had done for the last year. Being new guys, sometimes you didn't even know what you didn't know...it has the same effect as drinking from a fire hose!

The dust settled (in our offices too) and everyone started to cover down on their new jobs. Six members of the STB mentor the staff of the Basic Training Battalions (we call them STKs), four of us work on mentoring the Instructor Cadres that teach Basic Training skills, and four of us mentor the Brigade and higher staff for Basic Training.



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Soldiers Training BDE



Maj. David Durham King, NC



Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Watkins Thomasville, GA left, and Maj. Joseph Keenan Port Oranga, FL (above center) and Maj. Kevin Lyons Gibbon, NE (Above Right)



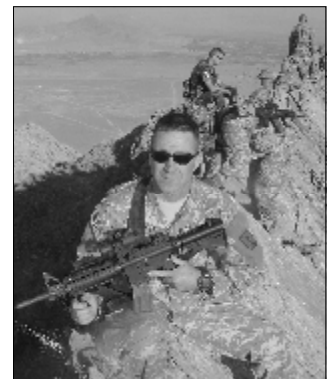
Capt. Clint Kinman Omaha, NE



Maj. Martin Riley Hickman NE, and Capt. Roberto DeMarquez Orlando, FL



Command Sgt. Maj. William Reid Orlando, FL



1st Sgt. Gregory Mirones

# AIT SHARKS



Sgt. 1st Class Dave Lutman Clay Hill, FL



Starting from the left Staff Sgt. James Legg Jacksonville, FL, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Ogle (FL), Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Rose Venice, FL, Sgt. 1st Class Alian Roque Boca Raton, FL, and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Dalton Palatka, FL.

# Canada's ANTC DET Provides School Supplies for Children



Maj. Randy Little hands some school children notebooks for classes.

School supplies such as pencils and paper are something we in the United States take for granted, if we need

school supplies our parents will go out and purchase them. What if your parents do have the money for school supplies or school supplies are not available?

In Afghanistan both cases are frequent. There is a high poverty rate and school supplies such as paper, pens, and pencils are either expensive or are hard to acquire.

One school in Afghanistan called Pol-e-charki high School recently was visited by the Afghan National Training Center Detachment Canada, who is working with the Training Assistance Group to build a culminating training exercise for the Afghan National Army

after completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). They brought school supplies that were

sent from citizens of Canada to help assist the school in the demand of providing education for the children of the surrounding community.

The local leaders as well as the principle of the high school were very receptive and the children were glad to have the supplies for when school resumes.

The teachers were given a chance to take what they needed for their classes first

but could not decide what to take and eventually they were handed a bunch of papers, pads, pens, and pencils for their classes.

Once the teachers got what they needed they let some children come in to get pads, pens, and pencils that they would be

able to use for classes.

Occasionally a baseball, frisbee, or flag with Canada's national colors was given to a child.

The soldiers as well as the children were enjoying the moment, and the soldiers were happy to take part in furthering the chances for the children of Afghanistan to be educated.



Maj. Andre Desrochers Commander of the ANTC DET CA off loading the school supplies for the school.



Sgt. Eric Leclair helping off load supplies for the school



Warrant Officer Mike Provnecher handing a baseball to a child with the Canadian colors.

## TAG Donates Medical Supplies



From left to right Sgt. Maj. Andrew Mahony Fort White, FL, and Capt. Michael Medved Jacksonville, FL giving medical supplies to Lt. Col. Said Waisullah, Col. Fazel

KMTC - Medical supplies in Afghanistan are hard to acquire. Recently, Medical Officer Capt. Michael Medved of Jacksonville, FL was cleaning house in his Troop Medical Clinic for the Training Assistance Group. What he found was an assortment of medical supplies and drugs that he knew he would not need for his Soldiers.

He thinks the items were intended for the Afghanistan National Army medical clinic at Kabul Military Training Center. The supplies were gathered up by Capt. Medved and his assistant Sgt. Maj. Andrew Mahony of Fort White, FL and brought to the KMTC medical clinic, so they could be used in helping ailments of the soldiers of the ANA.

"The supplies are a good thing and will assist in the clinics operations" said Col. Fazel Pur Obaidullah the Chief Medical Officer for the ANA TMC.

Some of the supplies consisted of antibiotics, antihistamines, decongestants, syringes, analgesics, and crutches. "I want to see the medical supplies used properly to treat soldiers" said Capt. Medved.

Capt. Medved hopes that this will not be a temporary band aid and will tide them over until the ANA medical supply system runs more smoothly. "I hope the ANA sees that the United States has good intentions for the people of Afghanistan" said Capt. Medved.



Facility Engineering Office from the left 1st Lt Jimmy Chambliss Ocala, FL, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hergott Lincoln, NE, Cpl.



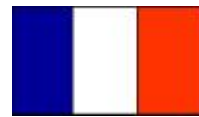
MP Mentors Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Hutchinson Jacksonville, FL and Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Harrod



# Garrison



## KABUL MILITARY TRAINING CAMP (KMTC) FRENCH OFFICER TRAINING BRIGADE ASSISTANCE GROUP



Maj. RENARD, OTB assistance Group Commander



### Greetings From the French

After training officers in the Afghan National Army since 2002, the French team handed over the training to the Afghans in January 2004. The Afghans now run the Officer Training Brigade, with a small team of six French officers mentoring the training, under the command of Maj. Renard.

With a capacity of running four 11 week courses simultaneously, the OTB can accommodate and train over 350

cadets.

They all have some military experience, for they have been commissioned in the former Afghan Military Forces, such as the Mudjahedeens, and some have attended courses in the former

USSR.

Not all the officers graduating from the OTB are to be assigned to a kandak (an Afghan battalion) trained in KMTC.

The OTB also acts also as the recycling school to give all the officers of the former armed forces a common background

and to train them in using the same procedures.

Along with his duty as the team leader, Maj. Renard is mentoring the OTB's commanding officer.

Capt. Gastelier and Capt. Castanet are mentoring the Cadets' Kandaks' leaders, while Capt. Rats is waiting for the new cadets' kandak, to be in processed, to mentor it's leader.

Under the direct command of Maj. Renard is Capt. Taddei, who is the liaison officer for the team, and works with both to the Afghan and coalition forces.



Capt. Rats left raises the French National flag on top of the Gharib Ghar mountain for 14th of July (Bastille day) 2005



Capt. Taddei during the short climb to the Gharib Ghar mountain for 14th of July (Bastille day) 2005 (Above) and (right) Capt. CASTANET (left) and Capt. GASTELIER (right) are enjoying champagne on top of the Gharib Ghar mountain for 14th of July (Bastille day) 2005





Spc. Robert Berry (FL)



Staff Sgt. Rodney Speights (FL) (Above) and  
Sgt. Danial Smith (Below)



Spc. Justin Rasik (FL) and SPC Brandon Renfrow (FL) Guarding the front gate of the Alamo (Above)



Sgt. Anthony Rivera (FL) checking a civilian working entering the Alamo (Above) and Staff Sgt. Brian Schiefer (FL) (left)



## Mission First—Soldiers Always!

T R A I N I N G  
A S S I S T A N C E  
G R O U P  
N E W S L E T T E R

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ANA Instructor mentor Capt. Robert Ford from Lincoln, NE Coaching an ANA Soldier While he is Firing his AK -47

**“I would rather have a good plan today  
than a perfect plan two weeks from now”.**

**- George S. Patton -**